

The *East-India* Companies CHARTER,
Granted by the KINGS Most Excellent
MAJESTY *JAMES the Second*, un-
der the Great Seal of *England*, Dated the Twelfth
day of *April*, in the Second Year of His Majesties
Reign, 1686.

EX
BIBLIOTHECA
ACAD. GEORGICÆ
AUGUSTÆ

JAMES *the Second* by the Grace of
God, of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland* King, Defender of
the Faith, &c. To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting.
Whereas Our wellbeloved Subjects the Governour and Company of
Merchants Trading into the East-Indies, have been of long since a
Corporation to the honour and profit of this Nation, and have enjoy-
ed and do enjoy divers Liberties Priviledges and Immunities by
force of several Letters Patents, heretofore granted to them by our late
Royal Progenitors and Predecessors, Queen *ELIZABETH*,
and King *JAMES*. And Whereas the late King *CHARLES*
the Second, our Dearly Beloved Brother of Ever Blessed Memory, did
by His Royal Charter or Letters Patents bearing date at *Westminster* the
third day of *April* in the 13th. year of His Reign, amongst other things,
give grant ratifie and confirm unto his Trusty and wellbeloved Subjects
the Governour and Company of *Merchants of London Trading into the East-Indies*,
That they from thenceforth for ever be and should be one Body
Corporate and Politick, in deed and Name, by the Name of the Go-
vernour and Company of *Merchants of London Trading into the East-Indies*.
And further, that they and all that then were or should be of the said
Company and every of them, and all the Sons of them and every of
them at their severall ages of one and twenty years or upwards, and
that all such the Apprentices, Factors and Servants of them and every
of them, which thereafter should be imployed by the said Company in
the said Trade of Merchandize of or to the *East-Indies* beyond the Seas
or any other the places therein for that purpose mentioned should and
might from thenceforth for ever from the day of the date of the said
Letters Patents freely Traffick, and use the Trade of Merchandize by
Seas, in and by such wayes and passages then found out and discovered
or which then after should be found out and discovered as they should
esteem and take to be fittest into and from the said *East-Indies*, in the
Countreys and Parts of *Asia* and *Africa*, and into and from the Islands,
Ports, Havens, Cities, Creeks, Towns and places of *Asia, Africa* and
America or any of them beyond the Cape of *Bona Esperanza* to the
Streights of Magellan, where any Trade or Traffique of Merchandize
might be used or had, and to and from every of them in such order
manner form liberty and condition to all intents and purposes as should
be from time to time at any publique Assembly or Court holden by
or for the said Governour and Company by or between them of the
said Fellowship or Company of *Merchants of London Trading into the*
East-Indies, or the more part of them for the time being present at such
Assembly or Court the Governour or his Deputy being alwayes pre-
sent, at such Court or Assembly limited and agreed and not otherwise,

Whereas the *East-India*
Company have been
long a Corporation,

by force of several Let-
ters Patents,

which the late King
Charles the Second, did
ratifie and confirm ;
Granting them

to be for ever a Body
Corporate in deed and
name.

And that they, their
Sons, Apprentices and
Servants,

might for ever freely
Trade and Merchandize
to and from *India*, by
the ways then, or there-
after to be, discovered.

beyond the Cape of Good
Hope, to the Streights of
Magellan,

in such manner, as should
at any Publick Assembly
or Court,

or the Major part pre-
sent, (the Governour or
his Deputy being always
one ;)

be limited and agreed ;
any Statute, &c. not-
withstanding.

So as they Trade not to
any place in the Lawful
Possession of any Chri-
stian Prince or State in
League or Amity,

that would not accept
such Trade, but declare
against it.

And further, That the
said Company shall for
ever enjoy the whole
and intire Trade.

And that no part of the
said *Indies* should be vi-
sited or haunted by any
of his Majesties Subjects.

And the said late King
did also by his Preroga-
tive Royal, (which he
would not in that be-
half have argued ;)
streightly prohibit all
his Subjects, from Tra-
ding into the said *Indies*;

Other than the said Go-
vernour and Company,
their Factors, &c.

unless they obtain Li-
cense of them under
their Common Seal,

under the Penalties ther-
in expressed.

And whereas the said
late King by his Royal
Charter, Dated 27 Mar.
An. 20 Regni, by advice
of his Privy Council,

did grant and transfer
unto the said Governour
and Company, all the
Port and Island of *Bom-
bay*, with all the Rights,
Royalties, &c.

in as ample manner as
the said late King had
or might have had, and
enjoyed the same

any molestation, impeachment or disturbance, any statute, usage, diver-
sity of Religion or Faith, or any other cause or matter whatsoever to the
contrary notwithstanding : So alwayes the same Trade be not under-
taken or addressed to any Countrey, Island, Port, Haven, City, Creek,
Town or Place in the lawful and actual possession of any such Christian
Prince or State as then was, or at any time thereafter should be
in league or Amity with the said late King, his heirs or successors,
and who then did not, or would not except of any such Trade, but
did openly declare and publish the same to be utterly against his
and their good will and liking. And further the said late King did there-
by for himself, his heirs and successors grant unto the said *Governour and
Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East-Indies*, and to their
successors, That they and their successors, and their Factors, Servants
and Assigns in the Trade of Merchandize for them and on their behalf,
and not otherwise, should for ever after have use and enjoy the whole
entire and onely Trade and Traffique ; and the whole entire and only
Liberty use and priviledge of Trading and Traffiquing and using the
Feat and Trade of Merchandize to and from the said *East-Indies*, and
to and from all the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns and Places
therein for that purpose mentioned in such manner and form as is there-
in mentioned. And the said late King did thereby for himself his heirs
and successors further grant to the said *Governour and Company* and
their successors, that the said *East-Indies* or the Islands, Havens, Ports,
Cities, Towns or Places thereof, or any part thereof, should not be
visited frequented or haunted by any the subjects of him his heirs or
successors, during the time that the said Letters Patents should be in
force and not revoked or repealed, contrary to the true meaning of
the said Letters Patents. And the said late King by virtue of his Pre-
rogative Royal, which he would not in that behalf have argued or
brought in question, did also by his said Letters Patents streightly
charge command and prohibit for himself his heirs and successors all
the subjects of him his heirs and successors of what Degree or Quality
soever they were, that none of them directly or indirectly visit haunt fre-
quent and Trade Traffique or Adventure by way of Merchandize into or
from any the said *East-Indies* or places therein for that purpose mentioned
other then the said *Governour and Company*, and such particular persons
as then were or after should be of that Company their Agents, Factors,
and Assigns, during the time that the said Letters Patents should be in
force, unless by and with the License and Agreement of the said Go-
vernour and Company in writing first had and obtained under their
Common Seal to be granted, upon the pains and Forfeitures in the said
Letters Patents at large expressed, as in and by the said Letters Pa-
tents, relation thereunto being had, amongst several other grants, cove-
nants, powers, clauses, liberties, immunities, priviledges, preheminences
and provisoes therein contained and expressed may more fully appear.
And whereas the said late King *CHARLES the Second*, by His
Royal Charter or Letters Patents bearing date at *Westminster* the 27th.
day of *March*, in the 20th. year of His Raig, by the Advice of His
Privy Council, in all the grants and matters therein, did grant transfer
and confirm for himself his heirs and successors unto the said Gover-
nour and Company all that Port and Island of *Bombay* in the *East-In-
dies* with all the rights, profits, territories and appurtenances thereof
whatsoever, and all and singular royalties, revenues, rents, customes
castles, forts, buildings, and fortifications, priviledges, franchises, prehe-
minences, and Hereditaments whatsoever within the premises or to them
or any of them belonging, or in any wise appertaining, in as large and
ample manner to all intents, constructions and purposes as the said late
King then had and enjoyed the same, or might or ought to have had
and

and enjoyed the same by virtue and force of the grant of the then King of *Portugal*, and not further or otherwise. And them the said Governour and Company, their Successors and Assigns the said late King thereby for himself his Heirs and Successors did make, create and constitute the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of the Port and Island and premises therein mentioned and of every part and parcel thereof which to him the said late King appertained by force of the Grant from the said King of *Portugal*, and not further or otherwise, saving, and alwayes reserving to himself his Heirs and Successors the Faith and Allegiance to him due and belonging, and his Royal Power and Sovereignty of and over his Subjects and Inhabitants there, To have, hold, possess, and enjoy the said Port and Island and all and singular other the premises therein before granted or mentioned to be granted unto the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns for ever, to the only use of the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns for ever-more; To be holden of him the said late King his Heirs and Successors of his Mannor of East *Greenwich* in the County of *Kent* in free and common Soccage and not in *Capite* nor by Knights service, yielding and paying therefore to him, the said late King his Heirs and Successors, at the Custom-House *London*, the Rent or Summe of Ten pounds of Lawful Money of *England* in Gold on the 30th. day of *September* yearly for ever; And the said late King did for himself his Heirs and Successors also grant that it should and might be lawful to and for the said Governour and Company, their Successors and Assigns, and to and for their Agents, Factors and Servants, and every of them, to have, hold, use, exercise, enjoy and execute all and singular the Jurisdictions, Powers, Liberties, Priviledges, Benefits and Advantages whatsoever within the said Port and Island *Bombay*, and in all and every of their Voyages thither, and from thence, and in all and every of their Trade, Traffique, and Merchandizing there, thither or from thence to and from any place or places whatsoever as they the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns or their Agents, Factors and Servants or any of them might or could hold, use, exercise, enjoy and execute by force and vertue of his said Royal Charter or Letters Patents bearing Date at *Westminster*, the said third Day of *April* in the 13th. year of His Reign in any other place or places in the said *East-Indies*, or touching or concerning any other their Plantations, Forts, Castles, Colonies, Factories, Agents, Factors, and Servants, or touching or concerning any their Trade, Traffique or Merchandizing, Goods, Wares and Commodities or any other matter or thing of or belonging unto the said Company comprized or mentioned or intended to be comprized within the said Charter or Letters Patents, bearing Date the third day of *April* aforesaid in as large and ample manner to all Intents, Constructions and purposes as if the same Jurisdictions, Powers, Liberties, Priviledges, Immunities, Benefits and Advantages were in the second recited Letters Patents of the said late King *Charles* the Second, particularly mentioned and expressed, as in and by the same Letters patents, relation being thereunto had amongst divers other grants, provisoes, powers and clauses liberties, immunities, priviledges and preheminences may more fully appear. And whereas the said late King *Charles* the Second did by His Royal Charter or Letters patents bearing Date at *Westminster* the 5th. day of *October* in the 28th. Year of His Reign for himself his Heirs and Successors, ratifie and confirm unto the said Governour and Company and their Successors for ever, All and singular the Rights, Liberties and Franchises to them formerly given, granted or confirmed by

by force of the Grant of the then King of *Portugal*. And them the said Governour and Company did make and constitute the absolute Proprietors thereof.

Alwayes reserving to himself the Faith and Allegiance of the Inhabitants, &c.

To hold the same unto the said Governour and Company &c. forever.

To be holden as of his Mannor of East *Greenwich* in common Soccage

Paying the Rent of 10*l.* in Gold yearly.

Granting them also all priviledges and advantages there as in other parts of *India*, they might enjoy

by force and virtue of His Majesties said Charter, Dated 3d. *April*, Anno 13. *Regni*,

in as large and ample manner as if particularly expressed in the second recited Letters Patents.

And whereas the said late King by Charter dated 5th. *October* Anno 28 *Regni*,

did confirm all Rights &c. formerly granted the said Company.

by

notwithstanding any
former misuser, &c.

To the only use and be-
hoof of the said Com-
pany for ever.

And whereas the said
late King by his Royal
Charter, Dated 16 Dec.
An. 25 Regni,
did grant the said Com-
pany the Island of St.
Helena, with all the
Rights, &c.

with all and singular
Royalties, Revenues,
Customs, &c.

and did create and con-
stitute the said Compa-
ny, absolute Lords and
Proprietors of the said
Island,
(always reserving the
Faith and Allegiance of
the Inhabitants:)

to the only use of the
said Governour and
Company,

to be holden in free and
common Soccage;

by the two first recited Charters or Letters Patents of the said late King *Charles* the Second herein before-mentioned or either of them notwithstanding any former mis-user, non-user or abuser whatsoever of the said Rights, Liberties and Franchises, or any of them by the said Governour and Company, or by their Factors, Agents and Servants, or any of them, To have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said Rights, Liberties and Franchises and every of them unto the said Governour and Company and their Successors for ever, To the onely use and behoofe of the said Governour and Company and their Successors for evermore, in as large and ample manner and form to all Intents, Constructions and Purposes, as by vertue of the two first recited Charters or either of them they might could or ought to have had and enjoyed the same if such mis-user, non-user or abuser had never been, as in and by the said Charter or Letters Patents bearing date the said 5th. day of *October* aforesaid (relation being thereunto had) amongst divers other Grants, Liberties, Immunities, Priviledges and Preheminences may more fully appear. And Whereas the said late King *Charles* the Second by his Royal Charter or Letters Patents bearing Date at *Westminster* the 16th. day of *December* in the 25th. year of his Reign for himself his Heirs and Successors did give, grant and confirm unto the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns, all that the Island of St. *Helena* with all the Rights, Profits, Territories and Appurtenances whatsoever, and all the Soil, Lands, Fields, Woods, Mountains, Farmes, Lakes, Pools, Harbours, Rivers, Bayes, Isles, Islets, scituate or being within the bounds or limits thereof with the fishing of all sorts of Fish, Whales, Sturgeons and all other Royal Fishes in the Bayes, Islets and Rivers within the same premisses, and the Fish therein taken, And all the Veins, Mines and Quarries as well Royal Mines as other Mines, whether the same were then discovered or not discovered, and also all Gold, Silver, Jems and precious Stones, and all other whatsoever, be it of Stones, Metals or any thing whatsoever then found or to be found within the Veins, Mines or Quarries of the same Island and premisses. And all and singular Royalties, Revenues, Rents, Customes, Castles, Forts and Buildings and Fortifications then Erected and to be Erected on the premisses or any part thereof. And all Priviledges, Franchises, Preheminences and Hereditaments whatsoever within the same, or to them or any of them belonging or in any wise appertaining in as large and ample manner to all intents, constructions and purposes as the said late King *Charles* the Second then had and enjoyed or might or could have or enjoy the same by vertue or force of the same late Kings Conquest thereof or otherwise howsoever, And them the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns he the said late King *Charles* the Second for himself, his Heirs and Successors did thereby make create and constitute the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of the same Island and premisses, and of every part and parcel thereof; Saving, and alwayes reserving to the same late King his Heirs and Successors, the Faith and Allegiance to them due and belonging and their Royal power and Sovereignty of and over their Subjects and Inhabitants there, To have hold possess and enjoy the same Islands and all and singular other the premisses therein before granted or mentioned to be granted unto the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns for ever, To the only use of the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns for evermore, To be holden of the said late King, his Heirs and Successors as of the Mannor of *East Greenwich* in the County of *Kent* in free and common soccage, and not in *Capite* nor by Knights service, as in and by the said Letters Patents

(21)

Patents, relation being thereunto had amongst diverse other Grants, Powers, Liberties, Priviledges, Preheminences and Clauses therein exprest may more fully appear. And Whereas the same late King by his Royal Charter or Letters Patents bearing date at *Westminster* the 9th. day of *August* in the 35th of his Reign, did Erect and Establish a Court of Judicature to be held at such place or places, Fort or Forts, Plantations or Factories upon the Coasts in the same Letters Patents mentioned, as the said Company should from time to time direct or appoint, which said Court should consist of one person learned in the Civil Lawes and two Merchants, which said persons and such Officers of the said Court as should be thought necessary to be nominated and appointed from time to time by the Governour or Deputy Governour and Court or the Major part of them and which said persons learned in the Civil Lawes and two Merchants or the Major part of them, whereof the said person learned in the Civil Law to be one should have Commission and power to hear and determine all Cases of Forfeitures and seizures of any ship or ships, Goods and Merchandize trading and coming upon any the said Coasts or Limits contrary to the intent of the same Letters Patents and of the said first recited Letters Patents of the said late King *Charles* the Second therein mentioned, and also all Causes Mercantile or Maritime, Bargains, Buyings, Sellings, Bartering of Wares whatsoever and all Policies and Acts of Assurance and all Bills, Bonds, and premises for payment of Money or Mercantile or trading Contracts, all Charter-parties or Trading Contracts for affraighting of Vessels and wages of Marriners and all other Mercantile or Maritime Cases whatsoever concerning any person or persons residing, coming or being in the places aforesaid and all cases of Trespasses, Injuries and Wrongs done or committed upon the high Sea or in any of the Regions, and Territories, Countries, or places therein for that purpose mentioned concerning any person or persons residing being or coming in the parts of *Asia*, *Africa* and *America* within the bounds and limits therein mentioned. All which Cases should be adjudged and determined by the said Court upon due examination and proof according to the Rules of Equity and good Conscience, and according to the Laws and Customs of Merchants by such Methods and Rules of proceedings as the same late King should from time to time direct and appoint either under his Great Seal or Privy Seal, And for want of such direction, and until such direction should be made by such ways and means as by the Judges of the said Court should in their best Judgments and discretions think meet and just; whether it be by a summary way or otherwise according to the exigency of several Cases that should be brought in Judgment before them, and all Judgments, Determinations and Decrees made in the said Court were to be put in writing and signified to the persons that were present at the making of the same and should contain a short state of the matter of Fact as it appeared to them, and their Sentence and Adjudication thereupon, as in and by the said Letters Patents bearing Date at *Westminster* the 9th. day of *August* aforesaid, relation being thereunto had amongst divers other Grants, Powers, Liberties, Priviledges and Clauses therein contained may more fully and at large appear. And whereas we are given to understand, that several persons contrary to, And in Contempt of the first recited Letters Patents, and the Royal Pleasure of our said Dearly Beloved Brother thereby declared, have of late years presumed without the Licence of the said Governour and Company to send out several Ships, and to Trade, Traffique and Adventure

F

by

And whereas the same late King by his Royal Charter dated 9 *August*, Anno Regni 35. did erect a Court of Judicature, to be holden as the Company should direct,

to determin all cases of forfeitures and seizures of Ships, &c.

As also, all Causes Mercantile or Maritime, &c.

and all Trespasses upon the high Sea, or any the Regions, &c.

according to Equity, and the Customs of Merchants. And by such methods as the said late King should direct, under his Great or Privy Seal. And for want thereof, as the Judges of the said Court should think meet.

All Judgments to be put in writing &c.

And whereas several persons, in contempt of the first recited Letters Patents, have presumed (without Licence) to send out Ships, and to trade within the limits comprised in the said Charter;

to the great damage of the said Company, and manifest hazard of ruining of that Trade,

Whereupon the said Governour and Company have humbly besought Us to grant and confirm the said Charters, with some additions.

Now, well weighing how highly it imports the honour and welfare of the Realm, &c.

that those disorders should be redrest, and that Trade improved to the utmost;

and that the said Company may be encouraged by all lawful assistance, in that difficult and hazardous Trade; We have and do hereby ratify and confirm for ever, all the said Charters, &c.

And all Rights and Priviledges as fully as if particularly express'd.

Notwithstanding any Non-user, mis-user, &c. yet subject to the conditions mentioned in the Letters Patents.

And further we establish to them all such and the like Rights and Priviledges as ever they had, &c.

With power to the said Company their Presidents &c. to administer the Freemans Oath.

by way of Merchandize into and from the said *East-Indie*, and the Coasts and places within the Bounds and Limits within the said Charters comprized, not onely to the very great Damage of the said Governour and Company and the great Interruption and hindrance of their Affaires and Trade into and from the said *East-Indies*, but also to the manifest hazard of the ruine of the said Governour and Company, and the utter Destruction of al that Trade. Whereupon our Trusty and Well-beloved Subjects the said Governour and Company of Merchants of *London* trading into the *East-Indies* have humbly besought us to grant and confirm to them and their Successors, All the said Charters or Letters Patents with some Additions tending to the support and advancement of their Colonies, Trade and Traffique. Now Know Yee, That We taking the premises into our Royal Consideration, and well weighing how highly it imports the Honour and Welfare of this Realm, and of our good Subjects thereof, That all Disorders and Inconveniencies befalling the said Company should be redressed, and to endeavour the utmost improving of that Trade, and being fully satisfied that the same cannot be maintained and carryed on to National Advantage, but by one General Joynt-stock; and that a loose and General Trade will be the Ruine of the whole, and being also satisfied, that the said Trade hath been managed by the said Governour and Company to the Honour and Profit of this Nation, And being desirous that the said Governour and Company may be encouraged in their difficult and hazardous Trade and Adventurés in those remote parts of the World, and may have all lawful Assistance from us to promote the same, have of our especial Grace certain Knowledge and meer Motion ratified and confirmed, and by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors do ratifie and confirm unto our said Trusty and Wel-beloved Subjects the Governour and Company of Merchants of *London* Trading into the *East-Indies* and their Successors for ever, All the said Charters and Letters Patents and all and singular the Rights, Grants, Liberties, Covenants, Franchises, Preheminences and Authorities in all the said Charters or any of them comprized as fully to all intents and purposes as if every distinct Right, Grant, Power, Liberty, Covenant, Franchise, Preheminence and Authority comprized in the same Letters Patents, were herein recited and hereby confirmed separately and apart by it self; Notwithstanding any non-user, mis-user or abuser of the premises hereby confirmed or any of them. But nevertheless subject to such Conditions, Limitations and Provisoos as are contained in the before recited Letters Patents respectively and not otherwise. And further, We for Our Selves, Our Heirs and Successors do hereby Give, Grant, Constitute, Erect and Establish unto the said Governour and Company of Merchants of *London* Trading into the *East-Indies* and to their Successors for ever, All such, so many and the like Rights, Liberties, Priviledges, Jurisdiccions, Powers, Franchises, Courts and Authorities, together with such Covenants and subject to such Provisoos and in such manner and form to all intents and purposes as the said Governour and Company of Merchants of *London* Trading into the *East-Indies* ever had or enjoyed, or might or ought to have had or enjoyed by force or vertue of all or any of the before recited Letters Patents, To have and to hold all and singular the premises unto the said Governour and Company of Merchants of *London* Trading to the *East-Indies* and their Successors for evermore. And further, We do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Grant

Grant unto the said Governour and Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East-Indies and their Successors, That it shall and may be lawful at all times hereafter to and for the said Governour and Company and their Successors and their respective Presidents, Agents, and Chiefs, and Councils in the said East-Indies, and the Islands aforesaid, or any three of them whereof such President, Agent or Chief to be one, to administer to all or any person or persons which at any time hereafter shall be employed by the said Governour and Company or their Successors within the Limits of any of the Charters aforesaid such formal and lawful Oath as is usually administered to or taken by every Freeman of the said Company. And all other formal and lawful Oaths as shall from time to time by the said Governour and Company or the Major part of them present at any Court of Committees (whereof the Governour or Deputy to be one) be reasonably devised, directed or appointed. And further, We do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors by these presents, Erect and Establish a Court of Judicature to be held at such place or places, Fort or Forts, Plantations or Factories upon the Coasts before recited within the Limits of any of the before recited Charters as the said Company shall from time to time direct and appoint, which Court shall consist of one person learned in the Civil Laws and two Merchants, which said persons and such Officers of the said Court as shall be thought necessary to be nominated and appointed from time to time by the Governour or the Deputy Governour and Court or the Major part of them, And which said person learned in the Civil Law, and two Merchants, or the Major part of them, whereof the said person learned in the Civil Law to be one shall have Commission and power to hear and determine all Causes of Forfeitures and seizures of any ship or ships, Goods and Merchandize Trading and coming upon any the said Coasts or Limits contrary to the intent of these presents or of the first recited Letters Patents. And also all Causes Mercantile or Maritime, Bargains, Buyings, Sellings, Bartering of Wares whatsoever and all Policies and Acts of Assurance, all Bills, Bonds and Promises for payment of Money or Mercantile or Trading Contracts, all Charter-parties or Trading Contracts for affraighting of Vessels and Wages of Marriners and all other Mercantile or Maritime Cases, or cases of Reprisals of Ships or Goods for any hurt or damage done to the said Company by any person or persons whatsoever, and all other Maritime cases whatsoever, concerning any person or persons residing coming or being in the places aforesaid. And all cases of Trespasses, Injuries and Wrongs done or committed upon the High Sea or in any of the Regions, Territories, Countries or places aforesaid within the Limits of the first recited Letters Patents of the said late King Charles the Second, concerning any person or persons residing being or coming in the parts of Asia or Africa within the bounds and limits aforesaid: All which cases shall be adjudged and determined by the said Court upon due examination and proof according to the Rules of Equity and good Conscience and according to the Laws and Customs of Merchants, by such methods and rules of proceedings as We, Our Heirs or Successors shall from time to time direct and appoint under the great Seal or Privy Seal. And for want of such Directions, and until such Directions shall be made, by such ways and means as by the Judges of the said Court shall in their best Judgments and Discretions think meet and just, whether it be by a summary way or otherwise

And such other lawful Oath as the Court shall direct.

We do further erect and establish a Court of Judicature, at such places as they shall appoint:

This Court to consist of a Civilian and two Merchants,

Or the Major part of them whereof the Civilian to be one;

who shall have power to determine of forfeitures, seizures, &c.

and all causes Mercantile or Maritime.

And all trespasses on the High Seas, or any the Regions aforesaid

according to the Rules of Equity and good Conscience.

and according to such methods of proceeding as We shall appoint: and for want thereof, by such ways as they shall think fit.

wife

All judgments and determinations shall be put in writing

And whereas the said late King, did grant the said Company

power to appoint Governours of Forts, Factories, &c. and they to raise Arms, Train and Muster, &c.

We do hereby confirm the same.

And further understanding that many of the Native Princes,

taking advantage of the late licentious trading, and the evil consequences thereof; have violated many of the Companies privileges and liberties;

For which they intend to demand satisfaction in a peaceable way; and if not that way attainable; To use force of Arms for recovering their loss:

We do therefore grant them full power to appoint Admirals and other Officers;

wife, according to the exigency of several cases that shall be brought in Judgment before them; and all Judgments, Determinations and Decrees made in the said Court are to be put in Writing and signified to the persons that were present at the making of the same, and shall contain a short state of the matter of Fact, as it appeared to them, and their Sentence and Adjudication thereupon. And further, Whereas the said late King Charles the Second by his said Letters Patents bearing date the ninth day of August aforesaid did amongst other things Grant that the said Governour, Deputy Governour and Court of the said Company for the time being, or the Major part of them duly assembled, should have full Power, Licence and Authority, to name and appoint Governours and Officers, from time to time in the Forts, Factories and Plantations therein mentioned; which said Governours and Officers, should have full Power, Licence and Authority, to raise Arms, Train and Muster, such Military Forces as to them should seem requisite and necessary, and to exercise and use within the same Plantations, Forts and Places, the Law call'd the Martial Law: Which said Powers, Licenses and Authorities last recited, We do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, hereby Confirm and Grant to the said Governour and Company full Power, Licence and Authority to use, exercise and enjoy, as well within the said Island St. Helena, and on their Fort of Pryaman, on the West Coast of Sumatra, as in all other their Forts, Factories and Plantations, which now are, or hereafter shall be within the Limits of their several recited Charters aforesaid. And further, whereas We are also given to understand that many of the Native Princes and Governours of India, and other Nations taking opportunity from the Divisions, Distractions or Rebellions amongst the English occasion'd by the late licentious Trading of Interlopers, have of late violated many of the Companies privileges, surprized their Servants, Ships and Goods, besieged their Factories, invaded their Liberties, and many other wayes without just cause, greatly endammaged and abused their Chiefs, and Factors to the dishonour of the English Nation in those parts of the World: For which Injuries and Damgages, the said Company intend to demand and procure satisfaction in a peaceable way, if in that manner it be attainable, and if not, then the said Company intend to endeavour the recovery of their loss and damgages and to procure their satisfaction by force of Arms, wherein they will have occasion to use their Ships in a warlike manner, and have thereupon humbly besought us that in time of War, or actual Hostility with any Nation in the East-Indies, they may use and exercise the Law commonly called the Law Martial, as well in their Ships as in any their plantations, Forts and places within the Limits of their respective Charters aforesaid for Defence of their said Ships against any Foreign Enemy, or Domestick Insurrection, Rebellion or Disorder, We do therefore for Us, Our Heirs and Successors further give and grant full power, Licence and Authority to the said Governour, Deputy and Court of the said Company for the time being, or the Major part of them duly assembled, to name and appoint Admirals, Vice-admirals, Rere-Admirals, Captains and other Sea-Officers, from time to time, in all or any Ship or Ships serving the said Company, in the said East-Indies within the limits of any of the above-recited Charters, which said Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Rere-Admirals, Captains and other Sea-Officers shall have, and by

by these presents, We do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, give them hereby full power, Licence, Commission and Authority, to raise Arms, Train and Muster such Number of Seamen or other Military Souldiers, as to them shall seem necessary on board their respective ships, or as they shall be ordered and directed by the said Governour and Company or their Successors, or the Captain General of the *English* in *India* appointed, or to be appointed by the said Governour and Company, and to execute and use within their ships, on the other side of the Cape of *Good Hope* in time of open Hostility with some other Nation, the Law call'd the Law Martial, for defence of their Ships against the Enemy: Reserving nevertheless to Us, Our Heirs and Successors Liberty to revoke and disannul this power and Authority of exercising Martial Law in the ships serving the said Company in the *East-Indies* whenever it shall seem meet or convenient to Us, Our Heirs or Successors to abridge, alter or disannul the same by any Writing to the said Governour and Company signifying Our Royal Will and Pleasure for so doing under Our Privy Signet or sign Manual. *And further*, We do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, hereby Give and Grant unto the said Governour and Company their Successors and Assigns for ever, full power, Licence and Authority to Coin in their Forts any species of Money usually Coined by the Princes of those Countries only, and so as the Monies to be Coined by the said Company or their Order be agreeable to the Standards of the said Princes Mints both in Weight and Fineness, And that they do not make or Coin any *European* Money or Coin whatsoever. And that all Money or Coines so to be Coined as aforesaid, and no otherwise, shall be currant in any City, Town, Port or Place within the Limits of the same Charters or Letters Patents. And further, We hereby will and strictly charge and command all and singular Our Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Justices, Mayors, Sheriffs, Escheators, Constables, Bayliffs, and all and singular other our Officers, Ministers, Leige-men and Subjects whatsoever to be aiding, favouring, helping and assisting to the said Governour and Company and to their Successors, and to their Deputies, Officers, Factors, Servants and Assigns, and every of them in executing and enjoying the premises as well on Land as on Sea from time to time, when they or any of them shall thereunto be required. And *Lastly*, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Grant unto the said Governour and Company of Merchants of *London* Trading into the *East-Indies* and their Successors, That these Our Letters Patents, and all and singular the Clauses and Grants herein contained shall be and continue sufficient and available in the Law, and shall be construed and taken as well to the meaning and intent, as to the Words of the same most Graciously and Favourably for the best Advantage and Benefit of the said Governour and Company and their Successors, although expresse mention of the true yearly value or certainty of the premises or any of them, or of any other Gifts or Grants by Us, or by any other of Our Progenitors or Predecessors heretofore made to the said Governour and Company and their Successors in these presents, or in the Petition for the same be not made, or any Statute, Act, Proclamation or Restriction, or any other thing to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, *Witness* Our Self at *Westminster* the Twelveth day of *April* in the Second Year of Our Reign.

who have hereby power to raise Arms, Train and Muster, Seamen or others;

and to exercise Martial Law, beyond the Cape of *Good Hope*.

Reserving to our selves power to revoke this Grant touching Martial Law.

We also give them Power to Coin any species of Money usually Coined by the Princes of those Countries,

so as it be agreeable to their Standards, in weight and fineness; and that they Coin not any *European* Money.

And further we strictly charge all our Admirals, &c. to be aiding and assisting to the said Governour and Company, &c. in executing and enjoying the premises.

And lastly, That these our Letters Patents shall be construed most favourably on behalf of the Company.

By Writ of Privy Seal,
Pigott.